

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SAN CLEMENTE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 060920

TOSEC 100

WHITE HOUSE PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY ROGERS IN SAN
CLEMENTE

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK CANBERRA COPENHAGEN
JAKARTA HONG KONG KUALA LUMPUR LONDON MANILA MOSCOW NEW
DELHI PARIS RANGOON SAIGON SEOUL SINGAPORE USIA TOKYO UDORN
VIENTIANE WELLINGTON USUN CAN THO CINCPAC CINCPACAF CINCPACFLT
CINCUSARPAC CGFMFPAC CGUSARSUPTHAI CNO COMNAVFORV COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT COMUSMACTHAI DIA COMUSMACV 7 AF 7/13 AF 7 TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG FROM PHNOM PENH APR 3

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 3107

JOINT EMBASSY/ DAO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT - APRIL 3, 1973

GENERAL

1. IT WAS A SOMBRE WEEK IN PHNOM PENH, MARKED BY MULTI-
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PLYING SIGNS OF FAILURE OF THE WILL TO FIGHT IN FANK,
THE EMERGENCE OF A CRITICAL SITUATION ON THE MEKONG, AND
NEW EFFORTS BY LON NOL TO BROADEN THE POLITICAL BASE OF
THE GOVERNMENT.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY TO ATTEMPT ONCE AGAIN TO
BROADEN THE GOVERNMENT BY INCLUSION IN THE GOVERNMENT
OF PERSONALITIES OUTSIDE THE RULING SOCIO- REPUBLICAN PARTY.

3. SMALL GROUPS OF TROOPS HAVE BEEN LOOTING CLOTH STALLS
AT THE OLYMPIC MARKET IN PHNOM PENH PERIODICALLY SINCE
MARCH 26. MEMBERS OF ITH SUONG' S 1 ST DIVISION AND
THACH POCH' S 74 TH BRIGADE HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. ON
APRIL 3 A MILITARY TRIBUNAL SENTENCED ONE SOLDIER
WOUNDED WHILE RESISTING ARREST TO DEATH AND TWO TO LONG
JAIL TERMS IN AN ATTEMPT TO HALT THIS INDISCIPLINE.
THERE WERE NO OTHER CASUALTIES.

4. A COMMUNIQUE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION CONCERN-
ING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER' S 16- POINT
STABILIZATION PROGRAM ON MARCH 9 ANNOUNCED ON
MARCH 27 THAT THE PRICES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, WATER,
RICE AND ELECTRIC POWER WILL REMAIN THE SAME. MAIN
ACTION TAKEN SO FAR UNDER THE PROGRAM IS LON NOL' S
DECISION TO REDUCE HIS ADVISERS AND ASSISTANTS FROM
103 TO 10, SEPARATING HIMSELF FROM COUNSELORS SIRIK
MATAK AND SON NGOC THANH IN THE PROCESS.

5. MARSHAL LON NOL MADE A RADIO ADDRESS ON MARCH 31
IN WHICH HE STRESSED PRESIDENT NIXON' S STATEMENT THAT
" THE HANOI LEADERSHIP SHOULD HAVE NO DOUBT AS TO THE
CONSEQUENCES IF THEY FAIL THOROUGHLY TO COMPLY WITH
THE PARIS AGREEMENT" AND NOTED THAT THE PROVISIONS
REGARDING THE KHMER REPUBLIC HAVE NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED
AND THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS CONTINUE TO ENTER THE
COUNTRY AND ARE BEING RESISTED BY THE KHMER ARMY
" SUPPORTED BY SOME FRIENDLY AIR FORCES".

6. BRIG. GENERAL CHANTARANGSEY, WHO HAS DROPPED HIS
PRINCELY FAMILY NAME OF " NORODOM" CONTINUES TO AVOID
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PHNOM PENH, WHERE HE MAY FEAR ARREST, BUT OCCUPIED THE

KIRIROM PLATEAU AGAINST VERY LIGHT ENEMY RESISTANCE IN AN OPERATION WHICH WAS PROBABLY DESIGNED TO ENHANCE HIS OWN POSITION. MARSHAL LON NOL HAS SINCE ORDERED HIM TO WITHDRAW FROM KIRIROM, WHICH IS NOW IN GKR HANDS FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1970; CHANTARANGSEY'S 13 GBI IS SORELY NEEDED ON ROUTES 3 AND 4; NO DOUBT LON NOL WAS ALSO NOT ANXIOUS TO SEE A POTENTIAL RIVAL SCORING QTE VICTORIES UNQTE WHILE FANK IS ELSEWHERE DOING POORLY.

GRUNK/ FUNK

7. PENN NOUTH SURFACED IN PEKING MARCH 31. ACCORDING TO NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY HE VISITED AN ART EXHIBITION HELD TO CELEBRATE THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF FUNK AND THE CPNLAF.

8. AFP ON MARCH 27 CARRIED A STATEMENT BY GRUNK MINISTER FOR SPECIAL MISSION CHAU SENG STRONGLY DENYING REPORTS THAT FUNK POLITBURO MEMBER HOU YUON AND GKR PM HANG THUN HAK HAVE HELD NEGOTIATIONS.

9. CHAU SENG ADDED, ACCORDING TO THE AFP REPORT, THAT UNTIL GRUNK IS ESTABLISHED IN PHNOM PENH IT WILL NEVER NEGOTIATE WITH LON NOL. (COMMENT: IF CHAU SENG IS QUOTED ACCURATELY HIS STATEMENT IMPLIES THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS IF GRUNK IS ESTABLISHED IN PHNOM PENH AS THE RIGHTFUL GOVERNMENT).

ECONOMIC

10. RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH ON MARCH 29, TOTALLED 27,172 METRIC TONS OR AN ESTIMATED 60.3 DAYS SUPPLY. KOMPONG SOM RICE FIGURES ARE NOT AVAILABLE. THE EMBASSY HAS URGED THE GKR TO LIMIT SONEXIM RICE RELEASES IN PHNOM PENH TO 450 METRIC TONS PER DAY, CONSIDERED A NORMAL RATE OF DISTRIBUTION. DAILY DISTRIBUTION DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH, HOWEVER, WAS OVER 600 TONS. THE GKR IS NOW STUDYING MEANS OF CONTROLLING RICE CONSUMPTION BY THE POSSIBLE ADJUSTMENT OF PRICES.

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MILITARY

11. THE SITUATION ALONG THE MEKONG RIVER CORRIDOR REMAINS SERIOUS RESULTING IN A FURTHER POSTPONEMENT OF THE RIVERINE CONVOY. THE GKR EFFECTIVELY CONTROLS

LESS THAN 30 PERCENT OF THIS IMPORTANT RESUPPLY CORRIDOR BETWEEN PHNOM PENH AND THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE BORDER. EFFORTS TO CLEAR ROUTE 1 SOME 20 KM SOUTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL HAVE BEEN STALLED AS A RESULT OF CONTINUED ENEMY RESISTANCE. TO THE EAST, MAJOR ATTACKS AGAINST THE ISOLATED PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF SVAY RIENG WERE REPULSED ON MARCH 29 BY GOVERNMENT FORCES SUPPORTED BY U. S. AIR STRIKES. ENEMY FORCES SUSTAINED 31 KILLED WHILE FRIENDLY LOSSES TOTALLED 5 KILLED AND 20 WOUN
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